

**From:** [Judy Selina](#)  
**To:** [Judy Selina](#)  
**Cc:** [SPA Grad Advisor](#)  
**Subject:** ALL MPA ONLINE STUDENTS - CHANGES TO THE MPA ONLINE PROGRAM EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2019  
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Hello, as some of you might have already heard, there have been changes to the MPA online program. As of May 1, 2019, the master's project (ADMN 598) will no longer be required for graduation. Based on guidance from the Faculty of Graduate Studies, students presently in the system can be considered for the possibility of being grandfathered into the new program requirements. If you choose, this means that as of May 1, 2019, you will be able to apply for graduation (November convocation).

So what does this mean for you? There are a few possibilities:

- For those who are well on their way to completing their master's project, we encourage you to finish it. You have already invested the time and your client is anticipating the report for their consideration and implementation. It might be best if you have that discussion with your client.
- For those who are at the beginning of their master's project, you can choose to discontinue the process, provided your client is in agreement. (Again, they may be counting on the report. Alternatively, you may also continue the project for your client outside of the MPA framework.) You can take a personal leave for Spring and Summer (if you have any left).
- For those who have completed their coursework but have not yet started their master's project, this situation is the most straight-forward. You can take a personal leave for Spring and Summer terms (if you have any left) for this term and apply to graduate in May (for November convocation).
- It is important to note that In all cases, you must have paid at least 5 full program fees before applying to graduate.

In all these cases, please contact Judy Selina ([jselina@uvic.ca](mailto:jselina@uvic.ca)) for guidance on number of personal leaves left and the necessary paper work. Each student's circumstances will be different; hence the need for guidance from her.

Once you have made the decision to graduate and completed the necessary paperwork, you can then apply to graduate. Please go to the following link and click on <sup>3</sup>Apply to Graduate<sup>2</sup> under <sup>3</sup>Graduate Students<sup>2</sup> <https://www.uvic.ca/current-students/home/graduating/index.php>.

Two last things:

- First, please be in conversation with your clients. Remember you have a professional relationship with these people. If your clients have any questions about the program change, they are free to contact me at [spaadvisor@uvic.ca](mailto:spaadvisor@uvic.ca)
- Second, please also notify your supervisor on your decision. Again, this is part of a professional relationship as they will want to know.

If you have any questions about your options, please feel free to contact Judy or me.

Cheers

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If this concerns our graduate programs, please email me at [spaadvisor@uvic.ca](mailto:spaadvisor@uvic.ca)

Information about our graduate programs can be found at <http://www.uvic.ca/hsd/publicadmin/>

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